

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2004**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on February 9, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Houghland, Scruggs, and Tabb. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist.

Staff Attending: Department Heads Nester,

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

SPECIAL PRIVILEGE

Proclamation: "Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force Day"

Mayor Zeidler said it was a special privilege to recognize the naval reservists who have been in our community for the past several weeks.

Master Chief Tom Kramer thanked our community and City Council for supporting the naval reservists that will be going to Iraq and Kuwait to support our Army troops that are stationed there. Included in the audience were four recipients of the "Sailor of the Year" award representing battalions from ten different states. Chief Kramer presented the Mayor a plaque thanking the city for their support of the Navy.

Joining Chief Kramer at the podium, Mayor Zeidler read the proclamation recognizing over 500 Naval Reservists from across the county who arrived in Williamsburg for training prior to being deployed overseas, and declaring February 9, 2004 as "Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force Day" in the City of Williamsburg. The Mayor presented the proclamation to Chief Kramer (see attached copy).

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Tuttle (a retired Navy Reserve Officer) for his part in this special recognition.

Open Forum

Mayor Zeidler opened the session for public comment.

David Kranbuehl, 201 Harrison Avenue, recognized that the Council would be losing Mr. Houghland because he has decided not to seek re-election in May. He applauded Mr. Houghland for being concerned about quality, wanting to "do it right," being fiscally responsible, and being above politics. He suggested that anyone receiving a salary higher than a teacher would not receive a pay increase this year. He suggested the County also consider this. He was concerned about the neglected renewal of older residential neighborhoods. Residents support our economic base and the city should spend funds to restore residential

neighborhoods. We need higher fines, better enforcement, and stronger ordinances to get rid of bad eggs in neighborhoods.

No one else wished to speak. The session was closed.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

2004 Festival Williamsburg, Report--Scott Jackson, General Manager, Virginia Arts Festival

Council members received a copy of the Festival brochure. Mr. Jackson provided a brief update on the Festival. Tickets will go on sale February 15 and brochures will be mailed. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the College of William and Mary will continue to partner with the Festival to provide venues and co-marketing. He reviewed the performances scheduled for the weekend and said that tickets will be available for purchase at the Municipal Building starting on Tuesday, February 17. Mr. Jackson provided statistical data on the people that attended the festival, including where they come from and how they travel.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Jackson for his report. Last year's performances were outstanding and she hoped this would become an annual event. Council members are looking forward to the Festival. Mr. Haulman commented that this event re-emphasizes the importance of the arts in Williamsburg and provides diversity to our economic base. Festival Williamsburg will be held May 21, 22, and 23.

Emergency Management Initiatives Resulting from Hurricane Isabel—Lessons Learned— -Fire Chief T.K. Weiler and Police Chief Mike Yost

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated February 5, 2004, which included the "Isabel Lessons Learned Committee Report." The report included tables of items, which have been completed, items to be completed in FY 04, and proposed items to be completed FY 05 and FY06. Mr. Tuttle introduced Chief Weiler and Chief Yost to review the highlights of the report.

Chief Weiler reported on improvements to the Emergency Operations Center. He explained the composition of the working groups and staff responsibilities.

Chief Yost said a lot of lessons were learned from Hurricane Isabel, but of greatest concern was the lack of information to the public. The city, James City County, and WMBG radio station, are partnering and working on a Memorandum of Understanding for the operation and cost of the radio station during emergencies in order to improve dissemination of information to citizens. A permanent emergency contact number has been established 259-7200, and it was included in the first edition of the Neighborhood Guide. The Chief reported that the city was considering use of a third party contract for Reverse 911. Generators will be purchased for use at major intersections when there is a loss of power. Radio repeaters and antennae will be upgraded.

Mayor Zeidler thanked the Chiefs for their reports. Chief Yost reported to Council that he felt it was a good decision not to go with an 800 MHz system. Chief Weiler reported that a local, State, and Federal drill would be held to exercise the EOC organization. Mr. Tuttle reported on the conditions at the Water Plant during the hurricane. The city never lost water pressure, but generator power is needed for the raw water pumping station.

Mr. Tuttle said Peter Walentisch is working with the Citizen Corps, and that the city has made a decision to establish its emergency shelter at Matthew Whaley School.

Downed Trees/Holly Hills and Pocahontas Street: Based on comments heard at the Neighborhood Council Meeting, Mayor Zeidler asked the City manager to look into clean up of downed trees.

Comprehensive Plan Update Process—Planning Director Reed Nester

Reference for this item was Mr. Nester's report dated February 5, 2004. Mr. Nester's report outlined the process for the preparation of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Nester was hoping that the new Comp Plan would be a "slimmed down" version. He said the Planning Commission would hold two work sessions per month during the year. It is interesting to look back at the history and recommendations of the city's Comprehensive Plans, and what was done and not done. Both staff and the Planning Commission will be meeting with local groups during the review process and open forums will be held at Planning Commission meetings. A "community conversation" is planned to receive comments from the public. Mr. Nester reviewed a list of concerns regarding the update (see attached list).

Mr. Nester reviewed the Land Use Map of the city pointing out development changes since the last Comp Plan was adopted. He talked about the major areas that are not yet developed and areas that might be redeveloped. Two large areas, one along Richmond Road, and the other on Jamestown Road, are focus areas for zoning and use. Council should receive Planning Commission's recommendation by the end of the year. It will then take about one year to review the city's ordinances and to carry out the plan.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Nester for his report. She said that the City Council and Planning Commission recently held a breakfast meeting to discuss the communication process. Council members recognized the work that was ahead of the city and that the process could take two years.

Council members agreed it was important to have citizen input during the update process. Communication between the Planning Commission and Council is essential and critical. Mr. Haulman suggested another meeting with the Planning Commission to discuss their concerns.

Preview of City Council Meeting: February 12, 2004

Council members received a copy of the agenda for the February 12 meeting. No additional information was requested.

City Council Communications

Hampton Roads Mayors and Chairs: Mayor Zeidler reported that the Legislative Agenda received unanimous support of members, including the support of the tax restructuring and new revenues to support local programs.

Rental Inspection/Registration Program: Mr. Phillips reported on House Bill 829, which will go to the General Laws Committee. (See HB828 attached) The original bill, presented by

Representative Drake, received objections from many Virginia localities. The proposed bill was revised through negotiation. Mr. Phillips reviewed the provisions of revised HB 828. The most significant change was that inspections were no longer triggered by a change of tenancy. If the bill passes, the city's ordinance will remain in place with some changes. Mr. Phillips reported that there was no new information or a decision regarding the pending lawsuit against the city.

Mr. Phillips said that Building Official John Catlett had reported to him that several problems were found in rental units such as loading of circuits, people living in attic space, exposed wiring, patched drainpipes, inoperable smoke detectors, and bolted shut windows.

Council members discussed the rental inspection program and its purpose. A major focus of Council is the preservation of neighborhoods and the housing stock. Enforcement issues were discussed. The Mayor noted that the bill had a good chance of passing.

Schedule of Meetings: February 2004

Council members received a copy of the February calendar. Mr. Tuttle noted the following:

City Council Retreat is scheduled for February 26.

Joint meeting of the city, School Division, and James City Council will be held February 28.

Budget Work Sessions—March 22 and 24, 2004

Mayor Zeidler announced the Jamestown Road Study Meeting would be held on February 11, 2004.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Thomas Smith, Assistant CEO, Binns Department Store, said he was also representing other merchants in Merchants Square, but made clear that he was not representing the Merchants Square Board. He addressed Council concerning the proposed parking changes in the downtown area. Reducing the time of parking from two hour to one hour will have an economic impact. He has a signed petition from the independent merchants, but is not ready to submit it to Council at this time. He encouraged Council to study the economic impact of the parking changes and work with the merchants downtown. Binns is alarmed about the paid parking and the distance parking is located from businesses.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Houghland Moved that City Council go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussing one personnel matter per subparagraph 1 concerning appointments to Boards and Commissions. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Tabb.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Haulman, Scruggs, Zeidler, Houghland, Tabb

No: None

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. (Mayor Zeidler called a five-minute recess.)

At 4:35 p.m., Council met in Open Session.

Mr. Houghland Moved the Certification of Closed Meeting. The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Tabb.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Haulman, Zeidler, Scruggs, Houghland, Tabb

No: None

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Date: February 12, 2004

Motion: Mr. Houghland Second: Mr. Tabb

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Williamsburg has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Williamsburg hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the City of Williamsburg.

VOTE:

Aye: Haulman, Scruggs, Zeidler, Houghland, Tabb

No: None

Absent During Vote: None

Absent During Meeting: None

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Approved: March 11, 2004

Shelia Y. Crist
Clerk of Council

Jeanne Zeidler
Mayor